



DRUM SOLOIST . . . Miss Dora Wahl, 16, of 814 Patronella Ave., a student at Torrance High School, will be featured in a drum solo, "Grandfather's Drums," with the Torrance Area Youth Band Sunday. The free concert will be held between 2-4 p.m. at the Torrance Park Bandshell, Arlington and Santa Fe avenues, and will be under the direction of James Van Dyck. (Press-Herald Photo)

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

We've had the Republicans, and now television has slipped backed into its old bad habits while we're waiting for the Democrats. Here are a few things that happened while the Grand Old Party played the Palace:

Love is a subject that television knows almost nothing about. Set, yes, but love, no! However, *Someone Down There* has begun to see the light in a small way, and next season ABC threatens us with the prospect of love for Dr. Ben Casey.

Early last month, they shot the first love scene with the grim-faced Casey and Stella Stevens, one of five episodes in which she will raise his temperature next season. Now listen to this Miss Stevens plays a girl in her mid-20s who wakes from a 13-year coma to find herself a woman with the mind of a teenager! How does this grab you?

Some of this may be to counteract Dr. Kildare's fling with a surf rider last season. Later, she died of an incurable malady and was seen no more, alas. Writers hate these female intrusions. They get in the way of their plots.

Another professional man to be given the love bug this coming season is the junior partner of the TV law firm on "The Defenders." It's all part of the plan to humanize the characters after two seasons on the air. The girl involved will be June Harding.

By coincidence, the performers playing the roles—Vincent Edwards, Dick Chamberlain and Robert Reed—are unmarried off-stage. They should welcome the intrusion.

ARTHUR C. NIELSEN JR., the president of the audience measuring system which bears his name, wrote a piece for the Associated Press explaining his ratings—which he allowed are "about as popular with some television viewers as ants at a picnic." A good start, but his closing statement was most curious. "The rating process gives the viewing public a chance to vote its preference. From the point of view of the individual, this majority rule may conflict with personal taste. This is a limitation of democracy—in politics as well as television. But the alternative is to have somebody—or a group of people—decide what the public should watch

and certainly this seems much less desirable."

No, Mr. Nielsen, the alternative is to have a more reliable audience sampling. At present, we have a "group of people which decides what the public should watch"—and it is YOUR 1200 rating families. This is neither desirable nor democratic.

THE FOLKS at ABC have finally decided to do something about a home-produced series during the heavy eyelid hours after 11:15 p.m. to buck Johnny Carson and Steve Allen. Their answer is Rowan and Martin. At last report, the producer, Steve Binder, claimed he was given \$50,000 for the pilot and "trying to get Kim Novak, Henry Miller and Hugh Hefner to discuss obscenity" on the opening show. Ho hum.

Hope of the week: "We know that our program, 'Mickey,' will only be what the public wants us to be. I don't expect everyone to like it, but at the same time, we'll have enough ingredients to please many people." (Mickey Rooney).

Desilu is out of the red for the year, netting \$794,261. I thought you'd be happy to learn this.

My "Dear Diary" Award of the Month goes to Hedda Hopper, who revealed what television panel stars do when they get off the panel. "After playing 'Celebrity Game' with Carl Reiner, he took me to 'The Chalk Garden.'" We caught only the last half of the picture (it was beautiful) and got in on the party that followed. The theater was transformed into Chasen's, a delicious supper was served and we watched eight Watusi dancers." Television Marches On!

HITS NERVOUS SYSTEM
Multiple sclerosis has been called the great crippler of young adults. Prevention and cure remain unknown. It is estimated that 500,000 Americans suffer from MS and related diseases. Pathologically, MS destroys patches of the soft, fatty myelin sheath insulating fibers of the human central nervous system. The myelin is replaced by scar tissue. Nerve impulses directing movement, vision, hearing, speech and balance may be distorted or even blocked. MS characteristically progresses in a series of unpredictable attacks, often leading to total disability. It is most prone to strike young people in the prime of life.



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